

# Hutcheson Expels Militant

## Louis A. Roseland Removed from Minneapolis Carpenters Union

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—The expulsion of Louis A. Roseland, leading Left wing militant, from Local 7 of the Carpenter's Union here, marks a climax to a long battle between the Left wing and progressive elements in the Twin City building trades union and the reactionary official machine.

At the last meeting of the local, a communication was read from international president William Hutcheson demanding that Roseland be stricken from the membership rolls. The move was instigated by Andrew Leaf, special organizer of the U. B. C. & J. of A., who did not have the courage to expel Roseland by himself in face of the tremendous opposition among the membership. With the excuse that Roseland was a Communist, Hutcheson demanded his expulsion.

### Rank and File Opposes Move...

When the letter was read in the local, the meeting hall bristled with members demanding to be recognized and speak against the reactionary proposal. One member walked from the rear of the hall, stated that he was not a Communist, had no understanding of what Communism stood for, but that he had taken the obligation like all other members, with the provision that his religious, political and domestic affairs would not be called into question. Amid applause, he announced his opposition to Roseland's expulsion. Several others clamored for the floor, making motions to table the matter, and demanding that the chairman rule on whether Roseland gets a trial or the communication is tantamount to forthwith expulsion and the membership had nothing to say about it.

The chairman dared not make an outright ruling, and evaded the issue by saying that Roseland understood the meaning of the document as well as he did and that he did not deem it necessary to make a ruling. Seeing the chairman's weakness, Hutcheson's watchdog, Andrew Leaf, took the floor and explained that immediately after reading the letter, Roseland was no longer a member of the union and that was final. He was greeted with shouts of "Throw him out!" "Sit down!" "We want a decision from the chair!" "To hell with you!" Thereupon the chairman finally called the letter supreme and advised no further action. But as far as "escorting" Roseland out of the hall, or requesting him to leave, the chairman was unwilling.

Upon an appeal from the chair, a mix-up followed, and Roseland finally took the floor, demanding a definite ruling as to whether or not he was still a member of the Brotherhood, since no business can be conducted with a non-member present. The chair, fearing that it would be lost, refused to entertain a motion that followed for Roseland to leave the hall.

The meeting was in an uproar, until Roseland was granted the floor for some last remarks. Briefly, he stated that since his admittance to Local 7 about seventeen years ago, he had fought to the best of his ability for the union and the working class as a whole. "Through the every day struggle on the job, meeting workers of all shades of opinions, I soon became conscious of who the enemy was—the boss—and that my duty was to fight him as well as those who defend him. Because of the fact that I have consistently fought for the amalgamation of craft unions into powerful industrial unions, for the organization of the unorganized, for independent political action of the workers, etc., I have been branded by Hutcheson as an enemy of the trade union movement."

Roseland's removal came at the end of a sharp conflict in the building trades over the erection of the N. W. National Bank Building. Early last spring the building trades locals were united on a program of fighting the Haglin Contracting Co. which was to put up the building. Mass picketing was endorsed by locals, assessments of \$5.00 per member were levied in all locals. The spirit of mass action was manifest in all the unions, the general public was aroused and expected a real battle on this job. In the face of this splendid opportunity to win with hands down, the leaders were negotiating with the city officials and trying to make peace with the police.

A systematic campaign of hushing up the rank and file was begun by communications from local officials, as well as from various internationals and the Executive Council of the A. F. of L., stating that the

rank and file must be very careful of what it says and does. Stand by your officials, do not criticize, we are doing all we can! Paul Smith, representative of Bill Green gave assurance that the whole Executive Council of the A. F. of L. was behind (the scenes) the workers in this fight, that there was no reason for hasty action. After months of sabotage by the officials the spirit died down, workers became disgusted some tore up their union cards and went to work on this job. Ranks were breaking and no sign of a strike: only a single banner carried by volunteers for a while, which finally dwindled down to one person.

The class collaborators were squandering the unions' money without giving an accounting of it. Requests for information were rejected on the pretense that it would hurt the movement. But towards Fall, when the strike had been considered lost for some time, a new leadership had developed in the building trades and the fight was taken up again. Officers of the Building Trades Council and the local unions went on the picket line one morning and were arrested. The news in the capitalist press was the first the workers had received that there had been a picket line on duty.

### Officials Want No "Interference"

This aroused the workers and many appeared on the scene the next morning. Some fell in line, others stood along the curb across the street looking on curiously. At about 7:00 a. m., as the morning before, the police wagons were again brought on the scene to pick up these courageous officers who dared to chat and smile with the police while the scabs were rushing to the gates to get to work. Upon their arrival, they discovered several stowaways in their midst. The labor officials said to them: Who in hell are you? Stowaways from the rank and file. Who the hell told you to come here? asked the polite labor leaders. Nobody; we read in the capitalist papers that everyone who gets on the picket line gets a free ride to the city hall. Well, said the officials, this is strictly our affair and we don't want any more butting in of the rank and file, so tomorrow you stay home.

Next morning, about 6:15 a. m., about 100 rank and filers showed up but got no free ride. They became peeved and started calling the scabs names. A big, burly business agent came rushing up the line and howled: Cut it out, can't you see you're making the police sore? Furthermore, can't you see Mr. Haglin, the contractor, and his wife just across the street? What will they think of us if we permit you to

## The Struggle of the Miners in Taylorville, Ill.

Taylorville, Ill.

Dear Comrades:

Perhaps you have already read of what happened in the Peabody district. In all the conventions and conferences I have attended, and I have attended most all of them and chiefly on my own meager expenses, I was somewhat set back because Taylorville was considered the weakest district, and it was thought that the work was not good, not effective. The occurrences in the last strike taught me a bit different. When Taylorville came out, and that was about 100 percent, the other districts did not. And I am proud of the boys around here and the walkout shows what lone determined fighting can accomplish. I had no or little assistance, but those things have not stopped me, nor will they stop me. I will continue with my silent persistent work, which is the most effective. I had that experience in the German miners' strike in 1889 and so I will carry on the fight here which will help not only the National Miners Union but also the Communist movement, as the two cannot be separated. The success of the one is the success of the other.

The strike was a success in Taylorville, Pana and the Midland. It was a failure in the other places in the state. We had not enough men to take the lead and some of them are already mls-leaders. On the third day of the strike, when it seemingly looked like a success, all the fakers and would-be fakers clamored for the leadership. Think of it, two preachers, one a Nazarene, and the other a Latter-Day Saints preacher, another an ex-committeeman of Local 58, a renegade and friend of

call his men such vile names? We want peaceful picketing as per instructions from Judge Wright. Thus ended the picket line.

About a month ago war broke out in the Building Trades Council. The fight was opened against the Slipperley-Sjostrom machine. By resolution all offices were declared vacant and an election of new officers followed. Paul Smith tried valiantly to stem the tide, but was swept aside with the rest of the rubbish to the tune of 30 to 10.

Immediately after the election of the new leadership, they proceeded to go into all the building trades locals with a program of organization and education, requesting all local unions to elect a committee of five, preferably rank and file members, to work in conjunction with the organization and education committee of the Building Trades Council. This started the fireworks in Carpenters Local Union 7. Its officers, Ole Nelson, Oscar Ericson, Walfred Engdahl and William Young, with Andrew Leaf sitting in occasionally, were the official representatives of Local 7 in the Council. This element had consistently carried out a class collaboration policy, along with Paul Smith, D. F. Slipperley, Attle Sjostrom, Bob Cramer and Co.

For more than a year, Roseland, along with other members of Local 7, had fought for affiliation to the Building Trades Council. Hutcheson sent a letter forbidding it, but permitting affiliation to a Twin City B. T. C. and then only through the Twin City Carpenters District Council.

This was accepted and an agitation was started for the building of a Twin City B. T. C. The secretary of the Twin City Carpenters Council was instructed to call a conference of all building trades locals in both cities (Minneapolis and St. Paul) for the purpose of consolidating the two organizations. But instead of making this a broad appeal, it landed in the hands of the executive boards and the ranks never heard of it. Roseland then moved the election of a committee to visit all local unions for the purpose of reaching the rank and file, who would in turn elect similar committees to work with Local 7's for a Twin City B. T. C.

This motion was defeated on some trumped-up grounds. Roseland then moved on December 27, to endorse the program of the B. T. C. education and organization committee, and to proceed with the election of a committee of five members to work with them in accordance with the committee's request. After three or more hours' discussion, the motion was tabled.

The issue in the expulsion of Roseland is in reality the development of a conscious Left wing in Local 7 which has got under the hide of the reactionaries. In order to safeguard their positions they had to have a killing. The last word remains with the union membership not only in the Twin Cities, but throughout the country.

the bosses, and several other doubtful characters. Then, I think at the order of Freeman Thompson and some local celebrities, I was replaced by the above-mentioned gents, and as soon as the strike fizzled out, they renounced their membership in the N. M. U. so as to hold their jobs, which they did. For their treason to the miners they got a better job while hundreds and more were fired from the mine, and those that were not discharged by the operators were discharged by the Haywoods and Glassgows (U. M. W. A. officials).

At one time they had the jails so full that there was no standing room. I too was nabbed on Friday the 13th. I wanted to be with the boys but the sheriff rounded up Joe Natterman who put up \$2,000 bond for me and I was forcibly escorted home by the sheriff and my house guarded so that I could not get out of the yard.

My trial was postponed three times and comes up Monday January 13. The International Labor Defense took up the majority of the cases, but 65 year old Fritz Bode had to hire his own lawyer because he committed "lese majeste" in quoting from the Militant in one of his speeches, and distributing the Militant among the men. This, I think, was also the reason why I was side-tracked by Freeman Thompson and Company. Some of their ilk had given me previous warning and a bunch of Militants were stolen out of my outside overcoat pocket. Isn't that some wonderful comradeship to treat an old rebel? I was at the Belleville conference when Watt was ousted. It was the most disgraceful procedure I have ever witnessed

# Bessedovsky

## Trotsky on the «Revelations»

Hardly had Mr. Bessedovsky quit Communism by the way of the back-window and fence of the Soviet embassy in Paris, than he immediately made clear his position in a long series of articles that have been gobbled up by the bourgeois press of the world. In the United States, they are being published by, among others, the Jewish "socialist" Forward with sensational headlines guaranteed to make Willie Hearst turn yellow with envy. From his articles it becomes quite clear that his "revelations" are calculated to open a new attack on the Soviet Union and, as a first result to achieve its diplomatic isolation. Because this time it is a question of "facts" destined to alarm the interested governments. Comrade Trotsky, having received numerous questions, writes:

"You ask me what 'value' the abundant 'revelations' of Bessedovsky have. I confess that I have not read them, because the first article that came to hand appeared to me to be vacuous. After your request, I perused a number of the articles. I have not, of course, any possibility of verifying all his information, seeing that a series of facts he recounts are entirely unknown to me, even from hearsay. Nevertheless, I have run across at least a dozen facts with which I am personally acquainted. The others I can judge only according to the knowledge of the circumstances, the persons, etc. Within these rather broad limits, the memoirs of Bessedovsky are impressive for their fantasy, a fantasy of that particular character known among us as 'chlestakov' (from the name of one of Gogol's heroes, Chlestakov). It is a combined lie, where the element of personal interest joins with an impartial imagination provoked by the absence of any regulating centers. In many cases, Bessedovsky's inventions have quite defined and despicable aims. He is trying to serve those who would like to muddle the relations between Germany and the U. S. S. R. and provoke a rupture between Moscow and Paris. At the same time he wants to furnish arguments to the most belligerent elements in Poland and other neighboring countries. Since, despite his rather representative official position, he played a role of only second or third order, he employs for his combinations the petty crumbs that reached him from tables where he had no place. But in many cases, his fantasy has no aim and rather indicates a mind that has lost its balance.

"By the way, I am told that Bessedovsky not only took part until recently in the bureau of the Communist nucleus of the Embassy, but that he played one of the leading roles in the commission charged with purging the nucleus from ... Oppositionists. As you see, he is a man quite qualified for that! This fact at the same time makes clear the political 'evolution' that Bessedovsky has made...not even in twenty-four hours, but within a much shorter time.

"Communist greetings,  
"L. Trotsky."

in my 42 years in the revolutionary fight.

After the strike fizzled out, all the would-be leaders crawled back to their holes, kissing and glorifying the hands of their masters, either the operators or the labor fakers. The miners in Taylorville and vicinity are actually starving. This morning, January 7, they discharged 80 more men at No. 7 mine. All members of the N.M.U. must go. Hundreds upon hundreds have already been fired and the little work they had previously was not enough to feed their loved ones.

I sincerely hope that I can stay a while longer in the fight, but the 29th of this month marks my entry into the 65th year, but when I am in the fight, then I feel myself as young as any of them. I never will be a renegade or traitor to my fellow men. I receive a bundle of Militants every issue, and they come in mighty handy right now. As I write, the paper comes in stating that two more of our boys were arrested. I wonder what they will do to me, but let her go!

With the hope that we all remain faithful and fearless and true to the inevitable world revolution, I remain yours as ever,

—FRITZ BODE, Sr.